

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, and 2C. These sheets replace the original sheets including FIGS. 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, and 2C. A legend has been added to FIGS. 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, and 2C.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments set forth above and the remarks below.

Claims 1, 3-5 are pending in the application. Claims 7-10 are withdrawn. Claims 2 and 6 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly cite the subject matter of the invention. Claims 3 – 5 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1.

FIGS. 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, and 2C have been objected to for failing to include a “Prior Art” legend. Applicants have attached replacements to include the legend in each of FIGS. 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, and 2C, and therefore request withdrawal of the objections.

The Prior Art Rejections:

The Examiner has rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,811,751 to Leong et al (hereinafter, “Leong”) in view U.S. Pat. No. 6,163,010 to Kobsa (hereinafter, “Kobsa”). Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leong and Kobsa as applied to Claim 1, and in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,475,681 to Ingle (hereinafter, “Ingle”).

Amended Claim 1 is directed toward a probe positioning and bonding device including a stage unit disposed on a working table and supporting a probe substrate including a probe site, a microscope movably disposed above the stage unit while being supported by means of a first supporting member disposed on the working table, a probe fixing unit disposed above the stage unit and below the microscope while being supported by means of a second supporting member disposed on the working table, the probe fixing unit gripping a probe and positioning the probe to the probe site of the probe substrate, and a light source unit supported by means of a third supporting member disposed on the working table, the light source unit being disposed toward the upper part of the stage unit, wherein the light source unit is a laser-generating apparatus.

Reply to Office Action dated February 14, 2008

The applied art is not understood to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of Claim 1. In particular, Leong is directed to a probe station having a multi-wavelength laser generator, and more particularly, to an internal structure of the multi-wavelength laser generator and to a probe station to which the multi-wavelength laser generator is applied.

In Leong, the laser 24 is “mounted with the microscope 22 . . . fitting right on the microscope 22,” and the generated laser is injected onto a bonding portion of the substrate through the microscope 22. See Leong, col. 5, lines 63 – 66. In contrast, the microscope and light source unit of the claimed invention are completely independent from each other (see, for example, FIG. 3 of the originally-filed application). For example, the light source unit of the claimed invention may move independently of the microscope along the arranging member 104, so that the injection position of the laser may be varied in accordance with a relative position of the probe substrate and the probe that is bonded to the probe substrate (see originally-filed application at, for example, FIG. 3 and page 7, lines 13 – 16). In contrast, the position of the laser 24 in Leong is not varied because the generated laser necessarily passes through the microscope 22. See Leong at col. 6, lines 6 – 12. Further, the microscope of the claimed invention is *movably disposed* above the staging unit, whereas Leong clearly discloses a microscope 22 *fixed* to a microscope bridge 11 portion of a base machine 10. See Leong, col. 5, lines 42 – 62, and FIG. 1.

Further, it appears that the probe heads 18 and 19 in Leong are taken to be the probe fixing unit of the claimed invention. See page 3 of the Office Action. However, Applicants assert that the probe of the probe heads 18 and 19 in Leong refer to a “probe card” while the probe of the probe fixing unit in the claimed invention refers to a “probe itself” that is to be a bumper on the probe substrate to form a probe card. It is clear, therefore, that the probe heads 18 and 19 in Leong are decisively different from the probe fixing unit of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons indicated above, Leong fails to teach or suggest all the elements and limitations of Claim 1.

Kobsa is cited for disclosing X, Y and Z translation stages disposed on top of one another, and Ingle is cited for disclosing a pincette structure of tweezers. Kobsa is directed to a method and apparatus for laser cutting materials, and Ingle is directed to a bonder apparatus. Applicants assert that neither Kobsa nor Ingle, or their hypothetical combination with Leong, cure the above-indicated deficiencies of Leong.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants request withdrawal of the art rejections.

Applicants submit that dependent claims now depend on allowable subject matter.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for withdrawing the prior art cited with regards to any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicants submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigning attorney if there are any questions regarding this Amendment or this application.

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 500845, including but not limited to, any charges for extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136.

Respectfully submitted,

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